Harm Reduction Needs Assessment: Progress to Date

Research Support Meeting, June 3, 2016

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AIDS CT: Shawn Lang

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>In Principle</th>
<th>In Fact in CT</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Sees substance use as a health issue not a moral or criminal one</td>
<td>• On-site and mobile programs (e.g. needle exchanges)</td>
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<td>• Does not promote or condemn drug use</td>
<td>• Overdose prevention and response training</td>
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<td>• Meets people where they are at and is user-centered</td>
<td>• Outreach, education, counseling, and health promotion</td>
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<td>• Stresses short-term, achievable objectives</td>
<td>• Referral to substance abuse treatment programs</td>
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<td>• Is evidence based and cost effective</td>
<td>• Primarily urban-focused</td>
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Key Insights: 1. Changing Demographics

- Recent studies and available data suggest a non-urban distribution for the prevalence of injection drug use.
Key Insights: 2. Lack of Access to HR Services

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<th>Usual Site for Acquiring Syringes</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>74.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syringe Exchange</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetic</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
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HIV Knowledge (13 questions) - mean ± sd = 66.8 ± 18.8

Hepatitis Knowledge (15 questions) - mean ± sd = 54.2 ± 19.2

Overdose Knowledge (21 questions) - mean ± sd = 54.4 ± 18.4

Syringe Access Knowledge – 2 questions

None correct (25.6%); One correct (53.7%); Both Correct (20.7%)
High Levels of HCV and Risky Injecting in CT

- 20% of non-urban injectors report sharing syringes
- >30% report sharing drugs in a manner that can transmit diseases
- Up to 30% report sharing non-syringe paraphernalia

HCV prevalence of 40%
Incidence of 9%/year
Heroin Specific Overdose Data From Massachusetts Also Suggests High Suburban Prevalence

Heroin overdoses by county
State Police say heroin overdoses caused 185 deaths in Massachusetts since Nov. 1, 2013.

The statistics do not include fatal overdoses in the cities of Boston, Worcester, or Springfield, which conduct their own homicide investigations.

SOURCE: Massachusetts State Police

DAVID BUTLER/BOSTON GLOBE
HR needs assessment is an appropriate and feasible activity for NEHISN members

• Discuss misperceptions about the spatial distribution of injection drug use
• Develop agreement on possible indicators of injection drug prevalence
• Questions on the reliability of such data as proxies for drug use
Proxies for relative density of injection drug prevalence: subjective importance & reliability

1) Heroin-associated accidental deaths from the Medical Examiner’s Office
2) HCV new diagnosis from DPH surveillance data
3) Treatment Entries from DMHAS data
4) Hospital emergency department admissions
5a) HIV new diagnosis from DPH surveillance data
5b) Data from existing harm reduction programs
6) Drug abuse-related arrests
8) Prescription drug monitoring program